THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Training to farmers, including members of the Panchayats, is imparted on different aspects of Water Management, including, efficient use of water for agriculture under various schemes of the Central Government and the Government of Himachal Pradesh. Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources the farmers as well as members of the Panchayats are trained on the various aspects of efficient use of irrigation water for agriculture. Water Users' Associations are formed to man the supply of water at the field level and comprehensive training is also provided in using high yielding varieties of seeds, efficient use of fertilizer and pesticides to adopt changed cropping pattern etc. Credit is also arranged through the cooperatives. Panchayats play a dominant role in local development especially after the 73rd Constitutional amendment; and they are fully involved in these activities.

(c) Does not arise.

Depletion of ground water level

787. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that- the under-ground water level is decreasing in several States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to deal with the problems arising out of the depletion of ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have

shown a situation of both rise and fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country.

(b) The decline in the level of ground water is mainly due to withdrawal in excess of annual recharge, variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall, reduction in recharge of ground water due to increased urbanisation, deforeswtation and adoption of water intensive cropping by farmers.

(c) State-wise details of districts where fall of more than four metres have been observed in certain pockets are given in the enclosed statement, *(see* below)

(d) The steps taken by the Union Government to check the declining trend in ground water level include:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection), Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' and

'Dark' blocks of the country.

(hi) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States^Jnion Territories to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.

(iv) Circulation of Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(v) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States in artificial recharge of ground water. This scheme is at consultation stage.

Statement

Name of the State/District showing pockets with fall in ground water level of more than 4 meters (1980—99)

SL No.	State	Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittor.
2.	Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Os-manabad, Aurangabad, Sangli, Bul-dhana, Amravati.
3.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jallandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh.
4.	Haryana	Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Mehandar-garh, Jind.
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fatehpur Allahabad, Banda, Nainital.
6.	Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samas-tipur, Chapra, Dharbanga.
7.	West Bengal	Purlia, Midnapur.
8.	Orissa	Korapat, Mayurbhanj.
9.	Rajasthan	Nagapur, Bikaner, Jaipur
10	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur.
11	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gul-barga.
12 .	Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Paddukottai, Kamrajar, Thirunaganar, North Kannada.